

APRIL 4th, 1814.

Read the first and second time and committed to a committee of the whole house on the bill "To repeal an act, entitled ' An act laying an embargo on all ships and vessels in the ports and harbors of the United States,' &c. &c.

A Bill

To prohibit the exportation of specie, gold or silver coins, or bullion.

1 *Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of*
2 *the United States of America in congress assembled, That the*
3 *exportation, by land or by water, of specie, gold or silver*
4 *coins, or bullion, be, and the same is hereby prohibited.*

1 *Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That if any person or per-*
2 *sons shall put, place, or load on board any ship, vessel, boat, or*
3 *water-craft, or into any wagon, sled, or other carriage or vehi-*
4 *cle, or in any other manner attempt to export or convey any*
5 *specie, gold or silver coins, or bullion, out of the United States*
6 *or the territories thereof, to any foreign place, kingdom, or*
7 *country, or with intent to convey the same on board any ship or*
8 *vessel without the limits of the United States, or in any other*

9 manner to evade the prohibition contained in this act; all such
10 specie, gold or silver coins, or bullion, and also the ship, ves-
11 sel, boat, water-craft, or vehicle of any kind, and horses or other
12 animals used or employed in conveying the same, shall be for-
13 feited, and the person or persons so putting, placing, or loading
14 as aforesaid, and also the aiders and abettors therein, shall
15 forfeit and pay a sum equal to four times the value of such
16 specie, gold or silver coins, or bullion.

1 *Sec. 3. And be it further enacted,* That no clearance shall be
2 granted to any foreign ship or vessel, or to any ship or vessel of
3 the United States bound to any foreign port or place, unless the
4 master or commander of the same shall previously swear or af-
5 firm, that there is not, to the best of his knowledge and belief,
6 any specie, gold or silver coins, or bullion, on board the said
7 ship or vessel, and that none shall be laden or put on board
8 the same, or brought to, or received from, any boat or other
9 vessel which shall have conveyed the said specie, gold or sil-
10 ver coins, or bullion, from the United States; and the said oath
11 or affirmation shall be annexed to, or endorsed upon, the mani-
12 fest of the outward cargo of every ship or vessel departing
13 from the United States, and if falsely taken, shall be deemed to
14 be wilful and corrupt perjury, and shall subject such master or
15 commander, upon conviction, to the punishment prescribed by
16 law for the said offence.

1 *Sec. 4. And be it further enacted,* That whenever any specie,

2 gold or silver coins, or bullion, shall be transported in any ship,
3 vessel, or boat, coastwise, from one district to any other district
4 within the United States, or from one port to another port in
5 the same district, the master of such ship, vessel, or boat, pre-
6 vious to the departure thereof, shall deliver to the collector of the
7 district a report or manifest of the specie, gold or silver coins, or
8 bullion, thus intended to be transported, to the truth of which re-
9 port or manifest he shall make oath or affirmation, and shall, with
10 one or more sufficient sureties, give bond in double the amount
11 or value of the said specie, gold or silver coins, or bullion, con-
12 ditioned that the said specie, gold or silver coins, or bullion, shall
13 be landed in some port or place within the United States; and the
14 party or parties to such bond shall, within four months after
15 the date of the same, produce to the collector of the port from
16 which the vessel departed with such specie, gold or silver coins,
17 or bullion, on board, a certificate of the landing of the same from
18 the collector of the proper port, on failure whereof the bond
19 shall be put in suit, and in every such suit judgment shall
20 be given against the defendant or defendants, unless proof
21 shall be produced of such landing, or of loss by sea, or other
22 unavoidable accident. And if any specie, gold or silver coins,
23 or bullion, shall be transported coastwise without a report or
24 manifest of the same having been delivered to the collector, or
25 without a bond for the landing of the same being previously
26 given as herein required, the said specie, gold or silver coins,

27 or bullion, so transported, together with the vessel or boat in which
 28 the same shall have been transported, shall be forfeited; and the
 29 master of the said vessel or boat shall moreover forfeit and pay a
 30 sum equal to four times the amount or value of the said specie,
 31 gold or silver coins, or bullion thus transported.

1 *Sec. 5. And be it further enacted,* That the officers of the cus-
 2 toms shall be, and they are hereby authorised to take into cus-
 3 tody any specie, gold or silver coins, or bullion, found on board
 4 of any ship, vessel, boat, or water-craft, or in any wagon, sled,
 5 or other vehicle, when there is reason to believe that they are
 6 intended for exportation, and not to permit the same to be re-
 7 moved until it be made appear to the satisfaction of the officer
 8 seizing the same, that they are not intended to be exported, or
 9 until bond, with sufficient sureties, shall have been given for the
 10 landing or delivery of the same in some place of the United
 11 States, whence, in the opinion of the officer, there shall not be
 12 ~~any danger~~ of the same being exported.

1 *Sec. 6. And be it further enacted,* That all fines, penalties,
 2 and forfeitures, incurred by force of this act, may be prosecuted,
 3 sued for, and recovered, by action of debt or by indictment or
 4 information, before any court having competent jurisdiction, and
 5 shall, after deducting all proper costs and charges, be distributed
 6 and accounted for in the manner prescribed by the act, entitled
 7 “An act to regulate the collection of duties on imports and ton-
 8 nage,” passed the second day of March, one thousand seven

9 hundred and ninety-nine, and may be mitigated or remitted in
 10 the manner prescribed by the act, entitled "An act to provide
 11 for mitigating or remitting forfeitures, penalties, and disabilities
 12 accruing in certain cases therein mentioned," passed the third
 13 day of March, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-seven,
 14 and made perpetual by an act passed the eleventh day of Fe-
 15 bruary, one thousand eight hundred; and any officer or other per-
 16 son entitled to a part or share of any of the fines, penalties, or
 17 forfeitures aforesaid, may, if necessary, be a witness on the trial
 18 therefor, but in such case he shall not receive any part or share
 19 of the said fine, penalty, or forfeiture, but the part or share to
 20 which he would otherwise be entitled shall belong to the Unit-
 21 ed States.

1 *Sec. 7. And be it further enacted,* That this act shall be in
 2 force from and after the passing thereof, until the expiration
 3 of two years from the termination of the war in which the Unit-
 4 ed States are now engaged with the united kingdom of Great
 5 Britain and Ireland, and the dependencies thereof: and all fines,
 6 penalties, and forfeitures which shall have been incurred before
 7 the expiration of the act, shall be recovered and distributed, and
 8 may be mitigated or remitted in the same manner as if this act
 9 had not expired.